



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
08/987,889	12/10/97	BECKER	TSP-96-P-10

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LM02/0421

EXAMINER

CHANG, V

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2747

DATE MAILED:

04/21/99

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.
08/987,889

Applicant

Becker

Examiner

Vivian Chang

Group Art Unit

2747

☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Feb 12, 1999.

☒ This action is FINAL.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____.

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☐ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

— SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES —

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chapman (US 5,073,943).

Consider claim 1. Chapman teaches a sound system for a motor vehicle comprising: a control unit; an input unit; a display unit; a unit for generating source data in the form of audio data; an amplifier unit; at least one speaker; a bus system; at least a given one of the units other than the control unit having an associated memory representing a functional scope of the at least one given unit defining a variety of functions of the at least one given unit (e.g., the audio processor 27 defines a variety of functions such as volume control, audio signals balance control and so on), the functional scope to be transmitted through the bus system to the control unit, and the transmitted functional scope to be used in the control unit at least partially for forming a functional scope of the entire system; see fig. 2. Chapman does not mention that all these units are spaced apart from each other. However, the spacing arrangement of the units would have been obvious since it would have been determined based on designer's preference.

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Consider claims 2-6, 9-10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20. Chapman as modified teaches the claimed limitations

Consider claim 7. Chapman does not teach that the input unit and the display unit are combined into a single unit. However, it would have been obvious that the input unit and the display unit could have been combined into a single unit since such practice have been well known in the art for the purpose of saving space and so on.

Consider claims 8, 13, 17 and 21-26. The device of Chapman as modified would have met the claimed limitations.

Consider claim 11. It would have been obvious that DVD players could have been included in the system since DVD players are just one type of well known multimedia device.

Consider claim 15. It would have been obvious that the predetermined period of time for forming the functional scope of the system could have been adjustable since it would have been determined based on designer's needs.

Consider claim 19. It would have been obvious that the system of Chapman could have been in a mobile home since Chapman does not limit the sytem to only one type of vehicle only.

3. Applicant's arguments filed 02-12-99 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that the newly added limitations such as "--defining a variety of functions..." and "said units being spaced apart from each other" would make the claims patentably distinct. The examiner disagrees with that. As pointed out in the rejection, since the

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audio processor 27 of Chapman defines a variety of functions such as volume control, audio signals balance control and so on and it reads on the claimed limitation which specify the unit defines a variety of functions. Also, making all the units spacing apart from each other is just considered a matter of choice of design since it would have been determined based on designer's preference.

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vivian Chang whose telephone number is (703) 308-6739.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

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Any response to this final action should be mailed to:

Box AF

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 308-9051, (for formal communications; please mark "EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE")


Or:

(703) 305-9508 (for informal or draft communications, please label
"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA.,
Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

vc

April 16, 1999


VIVIAN CHANG
PRIMARY EXAMINER